ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1909.

G. S. HART, M.D.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FEBRUARY, 1910

A H. Thirlby, Printer, Measham.

To

THE ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH

RURAL SANITARY COUNCIL.

MEASHAM,

FEBRUARY, 1910.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1909. It deals with the health and sanitary condition of your district for the year, and is accompanied by the usual vital statistical tables required by the Central Sanitary Authority.

Your district, which consists of nineteen parishes, covers an acreage of 31,995 acres.

The population at the 1901 census was 14,447.

The population estimated to the middle of 1909 is 15,675.

Births.

Four hundred and seventy-seven births were registered during the year, viz.: 246 Males, and 231 Females.

This gives a birth-rate of 30·4 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Birth-rate	for	1905	was	33·3
,,	,,	1906	,,	32·5
,,	,,	1907	,,	28.3
,,	,,	1908	,,	32·0

Deaths.

Two hundred and fourteen deaths were registered in your district during the year.

This gives a death-rate of 13·6 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Death-rate for	1905	was 12·25
,,	1906	was 12·29
,,	1907	was 11·9
,,	1908	was 14·

Infantile Mortality.

Fifty-three deaths occurred under one year.

This gives an Infantile Mortality of 111 per 1,000 children born.

Infantile Mortality for	1905	was	103
,, ,,	,, 1906	,,	108
,, ,,	,, 1907	,,	82·3
,, ,,	,, 1908	,,	109

Causes of Infantile Mortality.

The causes of Infantile Mortality were as follows :—

Measles	1
Whooping Cough	1
Enteritis	3
Gastritis	1
Premature Births	15
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	1
Erysipelas	2
Bronchitis	8
Pneumonia	2
Congenital Heart Disease... ...	1
All other causes, such as Convulsions, Debility, Marasmus, etc. ...	18
Total	53

Zymotic Death Rate ·1.

Thirteen deaths were caused by Zymotic Diseases. This gives a Zymotic Death-rate of ·1 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Measles	...	...	... 5
Diphtheria	...	...	... 4
Whooping Cough		...	... 1
Enteritis	...	...	... 3
Total		...	... 13

Zymotic Death-rate for 1908 was 1·1.

Phthisical Death-rate ·44.

Seven deaths occurred from Phthisis. This gives a Phthisical Death-rate of ·44 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Four deaths caused by Tubercular Diseases other than Phthisis. These, if added to the others, would give a Tubercular Death-rate of ·64 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Summary of Deaths according to Age.

Under 1 year	...	... 53
1 year and under 5 years	...	... 16
5 years „ 15 „	...	... 10
15 „ „ 25 „	...	... 5
25 „ „ 65 „	...	... 55
65 years and upwards	...	... 75
Total	...	...214

Causes of Death.

Measles caused 5 deaths, Whooping Cough 1, Diphtheric and Membranous Croup 4, Epidemic Influenza 6, Diarrhœa 1, Enteritis 3, Gastritis 1, Puerperal Fever 1, Erysipelas 2, Phthisis 7, Other Tubercular Diseases 4, Cancer 15, Bronchitis 25, Pneumonia 16, Pleurisy 1, Other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs 2, Alcoholism Cirrhosis of the Liver 2, Premature Births 15, Diseases and Accidents of Parturition 1, Heart Disease 24, Accidents 8, Suicides 1, All other causes, such as Nervous Diseases, Kidney Diseases, Senile Decay, etc., 69.

Infectious Diseases.

Ninety-two cases were notified during the year, viz.:—

Scarlet Fever	44
Diphtheria	16
Enteric Fever	15
Puerperal Fever	1
Phthisis	1
Erysipelas	15
Total	92

Scarlet Fever.

Ravenstone	25
Thringstone	2
Swannington	3
Packington	1
Donisthorpe and Oakthorpe ...	3
Heather	1
Bardon	3
Worthington	3
Coleorton	3
Total	44

Distribution over the Year.

January	5	July	11
February	0	August	4
March	1	September	2
April	1	October	1
May	1	November	11
June	0	December	7

As will be seen from the above tables, Scarlet Fever was prevalent more or less throughout the year. Ravenstone parish had more than half the cases. The disease was of a mild type, and there were no deaths from this cause. Parents in nearly every case decline to have their children removed to Swannington Hospital, and as long as we have to deal with these cases in their own homes, where isolation is usually impossible, so long must we expect to have a large number of cases during the year.

In this connection I might say that the Hospital at Swannington is in my opinion quite unsuited for its purpose. There are only two rooms, no discharge block, no residential block for nurses, and no efficient means for disinfecting clothing. Under such circumstances, conveyance of infection from the Hospital to the homes of discharged patients is very liable to occur. A considerable sum of money would be required to make the hospital suitable for dealing with infectious cases properly and I think your requirements would be better met by joining with some of the neighbouring sanitary areas, and having an up-to-date joint hospital erected. I would suggest that it be placed in a more central position, where the services of a medical man could be easily obtained if any of those sudden emergencies which occasionally arise in such cases should occur amongst the patients.

Only one case of Scarlet Fever was removed to Swannington Hospital during the year, nor was the hospital utilized for any other cases out of your district during the same period.

Enteric Fever.

A serious outbreak of Enteric Fever occurred at New Swannington in March last. Thirteen cases were notified between March 23rd and May 4th. Twelve of the cases resided at adjoining houses, or block of houses at the junction of Brook Lane and Church Lane.

I made numerous visits to these premises along with Mr. Turner, your Inspector, and on April 26th I met there Dr. Robinson, County Medical Officer, to whom I had notified the outbreak. I also made a special report to The Local Government Board, and on May 15th, Dr. Johnson, one of the Board's Medical Inspectors came down and visited the locality.

The water supply was derived from wells sunk in the small gardens at the back of the houses. These gardens contained in some instances pig-styes of faulty construction, with no proper floors or drainage. The privies were of the old fashioned midden type, and being not far away from the wells afforded an easy source of contamination. In addition, fowl runs existed in close proximity to these wells. Moreover, the gardens were annually manured in the Spring-time for the purpose of cultivation.

Samples of water from all these wells were sent off for Chemical Analysis, and in every case were they condemned as unfit for domestic purposes.

Further samples were taken and subjected to Bacteriological Examination by an expert. One sample as the result of this examination showed distinct evidence of fæcal pollution. This sample was taken from the well supplying the house where the first case occurred.

I think, therefore, one might reasonably conclude the outbreak was caused by the polluted water supply.

The milk supply of the house was also investigated, but nothing definite was made out from this source as bearing on the case.

I advised the closure of all these wells, and the substitution of another supply, and suggested that as the Coalville water main was close at hand, that it be utilized as a source of supply, if suitable arrangement could be made.

In addition the remedying of the other sanitary defects above noted was urged upon the owners of the properties involved.

I am pleased to say none of these cases proved fatal. I believe there was an almost complete absence of diarrhœa in all the cases notified.

One other case of Enteric Fever was notified from another part of Swannington parish, and one also from Thringstone, making a total of 15 cases in all.

Diphtheria.

Sixteen cases were notified.

Ravenstone	3
Thringstone	2
Swannington	1
Appleby Magna	3
Donisthorpe and Oakthorpe ...	2
Measham	3
Normanton	1
Worthington	1
Total	16

The Appleby Magna cases occurred in one house, and the water on analysis was found to be bad. Nothing apart from such sanitary defects as are common to old cottage property was noticed in most of the other cases.

Erysipelas.

Fifteen cases were notified, and two proved fatal. Both these were in infants under one year.

Puerperal Fever.

One case was notified and proved fatal.

Measles.

Five deaths were registered from this cause. This disease having been epidemic at the close of 1908, at Thringstone and Donisthorpe, was continued into the early part of the following year.

Schools closed during the year.

Donisthorpe ..... Chicken-pox and Scarlatina 17th to 23rd March, 1909
Swannington Infants ..... Scarlet Fever ..... Dec. 9, 1909—Jan. 10, 1910

The following schools were reported upon last year, but as the dates overlap into this year, I repeat them for your information.

Appleby C.E. Boys	Chicken-pox	Dec. 10, 1908	—Jan. 5, 1909
Appleby C.E.G. and Infants	do.	Dec. 7, „	Jan. 5, „
Oakthorpe	Mumps	Dec. 3, „	Jan. 11, „
Thringstone C.E. Mixed.....	Measles	Dec. 19, „	Jan. 18, „
Thringstone Infants	Measles	Dec. 19, „	Jan. 25, „

Dairies and Cowsheds.

The number of Dairymen and Milk Sellers on our register is at present 161, as compared with 134 of last year, and 107 of the year before.

I believe the list is not yet anything like complete, it is very unusual for anyone to apply for registration, unless they have been discovered and urged to do so by your officers, and this in spite of the fact that two years ago printed notices calling upon all those desirous of carrying on the milk business should apply for registration. These notices were posted in every parish in your district.

During the year 325 inspections were made. On 7 farms substantial structural improvements have been made.

I would again draw your attention to my recommendations of last year, viz.:—"That the Model Regulations of the Local Government Board be adopted." Our powers, under the antiquated regulations now in force, are very limited.

Slaughterhouses.

These have been regularly inspected. There are 19 such premises in your district, only three of which are modern and licensed.

Water Supply.

The water supply of your district remains as before, and is mainly from wells. Swepstone and Newton Burgsland to a certain extent avail themselves of the Hinckley main, which runs through the parish.

Sewerage.

For information concerning these matters I would refer you to your Inspector's report, which is included with mine.

I am pleased to see the Swannington sewage disposal scheme has now reached a practical stage, and I hope to see the work completed during the present year.

In conclusion, I would ask your early attention to the suggestion offered on behalf of an Isolation Hospital, as the present time seems a most suitable one for economically carrying out the much needed improvement in your district.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. S. HART, M.D.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

Factories.

No new premises of this description have been opened out during the year.

There are 14 factories on the list which include Brick Works, one Shoe Factory, Corn Mills, one Organ Building Factory, Pipe Works, Stone Crushing Mill at Bardon, and a few small Coach Building Works.

Workshops.

Workshops including Bakehouses on the register, 65.

The number of Bakehouses included in the above is 10.

The Bakehouses are as a rule well kept, and there are no underground Bakehouses in the district.

Home Work.

During the year Home Work of the nature of Hosiery has been carried out in 41 houses.

As far as is known no case of Infectious Diseases occurred in any of these houses.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure in submitting for your approval my report of Works, etc. carried out during the year 1909.

During the year 65 Plans were submitted for your approval, four only of which were disapproved, then being again submitted later and approved.

The Plans submitted, represented 63 Dwelling Houses, 1 Slaughterhouse, 1 alteration to Licensed Premises, 11 Sculleries, 1 Store, 3 Stables, 1 Coach House, 9 Piggeries, 11 Privies and Ashpits, and 12 alterations and additions to Buildings.

During the year the following New Buildings have been Completed, namely, 30 Dwelling Houses, 1 Shop and Stores, 1 Chapel, 1 Slaughterhouse, 11 Sculleries, 13 Privies and Ashpits, 2 Stables and Coach-house and 17 Sundry Buildings, a total of 77 New Buildings, as against 53 New Buildings in the year 1908, as far as Dwelling houses are concerned, there is one house less this year than in 1908.

At the present time, there are 13 Dwelling-houses in course of Construction in your district.

No new trades or businesses have been commenced in your district during the year.

Eleven old properties have been re-drained and connected to your Sewers.

So far as permanent, or Structural Works are concerned, a scheme of Sewage disposal and Sewering is in hand for the Parish of Swannington.

A Local Government Board enquiry in connection with this Scheme was held at Swannington, at which your Clerk, the Medical Officer of Health and myself attended, since the enquiry, the Boards consent has been given to the Scheme and tenders are now being invited for carrying out the works.

A Scheme of Sewage disposal is also in hand for the Parish of Ravenstone, both the above being designed by Mr. Thos. McCarthy, of Coalville.

A Scheme for dealing with the Parish of Measham in respect of its Sewage disposal, I shall shortly lay before you for your consideration.

Quite recently I have laid a Sewer at New Swannington, with Manholes and Ventilation Shaft, dealing with the Sewage drains of about 20 houses, the Storm water being diverted to the Stream, the Filter Bed at the disposal Works has also been rebuilt with Granite Chippings and the Sewage effluent is afterwards dealt with by land irrigation.

During the year the following matters under the various Public Health Acts have received attention, and copies of the reports sent to the Local Government Board and the County Council, through your Medical Officer of Health :

Complaints received	39
Premises, Houses, &c., inspected	2211
Nuisances abated	1816
Pools, Ditches, &c., inspected	9
Nuisances abated	4
Animals improperly kept	26
Nuisances abated	19
Privies, Urinals, Cesspools and Ashpits inspected ...	117
Nuisances abated	98
Drains, Drain Traps, &c., inspected	161
Nuisances abated	124
Houses, or parts thereof overcrowded	11
Nuisances abated	9
Offensive Accumulations	74
Nuisances abated	74
Slaughterhouses Licensed, &c., 3 Licensed, 16 Registered	
Number of Inspections	47
Houses Cleansed and Limewashed	11
Houses condemned under the Working Classes Act	9
Number closed ,, ,, ,, ,,	3
Number made habitable	3
Houses affected with Infectious Diseases ...	85
Do. inspected do.	85
Number of inspections do.	190
Number do. disinfected	85
Disinfectants used, Sulphur Candles	
New Privy Middens provided	29
No. repaired do.	31
Pail on Earth Closets provided	7
New Ashpits provided	26
Ashpits connected to Ashbins	7
Number of Waters Analysed	13
Number Condemned	11
Number of Wells Cleansed, Repaired, &c. ...	35
Number of Waste pipes disconnected	5
Workshops, including Bakehouses on Register ...	65
Number of Bakehouses on Register	10
Number of Outworkers (Factory Acts) ...	41
Number of Houses (do.)	41

Dairies and Cow Sheds Order.

The total number of Cowkeepers, Dairymen, etc. in your district are not yet known to me, but the Number of Milk-sellers Registered at present is 161, and in connection with which 325 inspections have been made.

The proper periodical limewashing and cleansing of Cow-sheds is with a few exceptions, grossly neglected, ignorance of the requirements being usually pleaded, but when the requirements have been explained little progress is made as it is seldom that the work is done without further attention being called to the continued contravention of the orders.

Many Cow-sheds are in a very poor condition, but steady progress is being made, substantial structural works have been carried on on 7 farms during the year.

The number of notices received respecting New Buildings during 1909 was 138. Letters, &c., received and dealt with, 445.

Signed, SAMUEL TURNER.